

1 Samuel Lesson 37 Jonathan and David

Key Themes in 1 Samuel

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

New Moon Festival: Israel, which used a lunar calendar, marked the first day of the month with its "new moon phase" as a festival day. The festival was characterized by special offerings and the blowing of the trumpet. According to Amos 8:5 business ceased. Here in chapter 20 of 1 Samuel, Saul used the festival as an occasion to stage a state banquet.

annual family sacrifice: In David's time this meant an in gathering of the family at the clan site. Since it represented a higher level of obligation and familial loyalty, it could easily serve as a valid excuse for David to to absent himself from Saul's monthly celebration of the new moon.

ceremonial uncleanness: No one could participate in a festival if they were considered unclean. They could become unclean for a whole variety of reasons listed in the law.

Key Words:

covenant: Strong's H1262 "berith" a covenant, a treaty, an alliance, or agreement. In basic terms, a covenant involves some kind of agreement or alliance made between 2 parties. Covenants in the Bible are made between God and man or man and man. An example of a covenant between God and man is the one made between Abraham and God. The only covenant in the Old Testament between man and man is the one between Jonathan and David and in that instance the word covenant means an alliance of friendship between 2 individuals.

Read I Samuel 20:1-17

God continued to preserve "His anointed". He used Jonathan to provide for and protect David. Chapter 20 seems to have occurred at a later time than Chapter 19. David is back at Saul's court.

1. According to I Samuel 20:1-3 David sought Jonathan for help. What did David fear? What aspects of their past relationship caused David to seek out Jonathan?

Application: When you are in a hard trial or difficult situation who do you seek for wise counsel besides the Lord? What are some of the qualities you look for in a person you seek for wise counsel or help?

2. In verses 20:1-3 Jonathan found himself in a situation where he must choose between his father and David. What can we learn in 20:2 about Jonathan's relationship with his father? What choice did he make in 20:4? How might the covenant agreement between David and Jonathan have affected his choice?

3. According to 20:5-7 David comes up with a plan in which he needs the help of his friend. On what basis in 20:8 did David appeal to Jonathan for his help? How did Jonathan answer him in 20:9 and what does his answer reveal about his friendship for David and his regard for the covenant?

4 Jonathan and David were not just friends but there was a spiritual bond between them as well. According to 20:8 who does David tell Jonathan is part of the covenant they made? In 20:12-13 how does Jonathan let David know he can count on him following through with what he has promised?

Application: What are some benefits to a friendship between Christians that cannot be enjoyed with secular friends?

5. According to 20:14-17 David and Jonathan added to the covenant they already made. What did Jonathan ask of David? In doing so what was he acknowledging about David and how did it demonstrate selfless love?

